



*Department of Resources and
Economic Development*



**Hampton Beach Area Commission
Meeting Minutes, February 26, 2009
Training Room, Hampton Police Station**

In Attendance:

John Nyhan, Chairman, Town of Hampton
Brian Warburton, Vice Chairman, DRED (Seacoast Parks/Recreation)
Bill Watson, Secretary/Treasurer- NH Department of Transportation
Fred Rice, Town of Hampton
Geannina Guzman-Scanlan- Hampton Beach Village District
Fran McMahon- Rockingham Planning Commission
Candice Sicard- Secretary

Excused:

Eric Steltzer- OEP Representative
Tom McGuirk- Hampton Beach Village District
Chuck Rage- Hampton Chamber of Commerce
Jamie Steffen- Hampton Town Planner (Administration)

Chairman Nyhan called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

Chairman Nyhan apologized to the Commission for forwarding the draft minutes later than expected.

Consideration of Minutes: 01/22/09:

MOVED by Mr. Warburton to approve the minutes from the January 22, 2009 meeting.

SECOND by Mr. McMahon

VOTE: 6-0-0 MOTION PASSED

Chairman's Report

1. Public input comments:

Chairman Nyhan noted that he has continued the 6:00 pm public input sessions. John and Linda Gephardt attended the input session prior to this meeting. They said that they were successful in receiving another \$500.00 grant from the Rye Driftwood Garden Club for Bicentennial Park. They also recommended that we consider exploring the possibility of creating three to four arts and crafts sheds along the area south of Hampton Beach across from the State park which is partly owned by the Department of Transportation and by Port Authority. Chairman Nyhan noted

he will be referring this idea to Mrs. Guzman-Scanlan to review and report back to the Commission. The Gephards also recommended some editorial comments on the design guidelines booklet. This information will be passed along to Mr. McGuirk for consideration

Chairman Nyhan also noted that Kim Barron also attended the public input session and asked for clarification on parking study and when could the public comment on this. It was explained to her the HBAC is seeking funds for study and once funds have been secured and scope has been developed, then comments and recommendations would be appropriate.

2. Hampton Beach Redevelopment Campaign – Brief Update (Nyhan)

Chairman Nyhan updated the Commission about the redevelopment campaign and thanked Representative Styles and others who co-signed an amendment for submittal to the Public Works Committee of House requesting the eighteen million for the beach redevelopment project be added to the capital budget. Representative Styles will continue to update the Commission with news regarding the submitted amendment.

Chairman Nyhan noted that Representative Cushing was successful in getting meeting with Mr. Fitch, the Director for the state economic stimulus package process program. At the meeting being held tomorrow, Chairman Nyhan will accompany other State Representatives in hopes to provide Mr. Fitch with additional knowledge about the project, and to seek out any possible funding including discretionary funds for the redevelopment campaign.

Chairman Nyhan said that the Governor will be attending the annual Chamber of Commerce Awards Dinner. He noted that he had asked if the local delegation could set up a meeting with Governor Lynch while he was at beach. The offer was accepted for a fifteen minute meeting and Chairman Nyhan said he is putting together a quick agenda aiming to put important and supporting facts about the redevelopment campaign in front of Governor Lynch.

Chairman Nyhan said that with the help of Representative Styles and other representatives, he has met with Commissioner Bald and there is nothing new to report, and he was unsure if there would be any funds available through the capital budget or the stimulus package for the redevelopment.

Project Reports:

1. Community Development – Tom McGuirk

- Design Guidelines Booklet
- Planning Board applications – review

Chairman Nyhan noted Mr. McGuirk had not received comments on design guidelines, if anyone has comments please email him because he would like to finalize this by the next meeting. Mr. Rice noted he came across the original community development guidelines from a couple of years ago. He is reviewing the document and will send any other suggestions to Mr. McGuirk.

Mr. Rice noted he met with two applicants for plan review. The first project was on 8-10 Haverhill Street. Mr. Rice described the project noting that there were no comments but thinks this will be an enhancement to the current location. The other project reviewed was 109-111 Ocean Boulevard where there were fairly significant changes to the front of the building. Mr. McGuirk will write letter to the Planning Board with the Commission's recommendations. There was discussion about the roll down front doors and the unattractive look that this presents.

Mrs. Guzman-Scanlan expressed that she struggles with how much the Commission can ask of people to do for improvements since the HBAC plays an advisory role. There was discussion about possibly adding alternatives to the roll down doors in the design guidelines booklet.

2. Beachscape – Geannina Guzman-Scanlan

Mrs. Guzman-Scanlan said that through conversation based on the master plan, issues were raised including making the beach more attractive and enjoyable for visitors. Some of the challenges that they are confronted with are guidelines on signage. Mrs. Guzman-Scanlan noted the second issue was the possibility of a main street program without it really being a main street program, which is something she is collecting information about currently and will present to the Commission. Other issues were the actual naming and configuration of street signs, interpretative signage and enhancing open spaces. It was noted that although it may be difficult to address some of these issues the main goal is to follow the master plan.

Mr. Rice said that the subject of signage was raised years ago, there was going to be an inventory of what signs were and if each of them was still necessary. He noted that signage can involve a variety of different agencies including DOT, Port Authority, DRED, town and state. There are numerous legal requirements involving signage and it would be beneficial to take input from different agencies.

3. Zoning & Redevelopment – Fran McMahon

Mr. McMahon reminded the Commission that there will be an article on the ballot in March that will have an impact on the beach area that if passed would change the multi-family dwelling setback in all zones from 40 feet to 20 feet. Mr. McMahon urged people to not skip these articles and to vote on them this year.

4. Transportation and Parking – Bill Watson

- Parking Study meeting report

Mr. Watson noted that as a result of last month's meeting, there were a group of seven people invited to discuss the possibility of looking the parking and transportation study. In the discussion they tried to identify some of the issues of the original scope of work and brainstormed ways to compact this. Other issues such as signage came up immediately during the meeting. There was discussion about parking patterns, the flow of transportation, the flow of people and how to make the beach safer and cleaner. Mr. Watson noted that once the scope of work is finalized there should be clear short-term and long-term solutions. One of the short-term needs could be addressed by pavement markings. One of the long-term goals was to look at the master plan and what has been done in the past. Mr. Watson noted that much of the inventory that was taken was not completed during the peak of the summer. Mr. Watson said that he is still looking to meet with Mr. Sinnott and Mr. Walker of the RPC in the next month or two to finalize the scope.

5. Funding Sources - Grants/Research – Geannina Guzman-Scanlon

Mrs. Guzman-Scanlon said that there are basically two things to report. The first of which is Mr. Watson set up meeting with three individuals who spoke about different avenues that the parking study could be funded. She noted that everything is being done to increase congestion mitigation and transportation enhancement.

Chairman Nyhan noted that Mr. Firestone from Senator Jean Shaheen's office is accepting applications for congressional funding but applications must be submitted on or before March 13, 2009. Though this will be submitted by RFI, Chairman Nyhan would like to put into a request for seawall and other areas of impact including the bridge.

6. Other

a. State Park Report – Brian Warburton

Mr. Warburton thanked Representative Styles for ongoing efforts, noting that three to four years ago a section of the Rocky Bend seawall was finished, and then 6th Street and approximately 400-500ft past that was slated for work and although this should have been completed some time ago a contract has now been awarded and work will commence soon.

There was also discussion about parking and moving forward with pay stations. Mr. Warburton noted that if approved, the pay station metering will be done in phases, the first of which would be installed on April 20, 2009. He noted that there will be press releases regarding this. Mr. Warburton said that twelve weeks from tomorrow is Memorial Day weekend. He said that no one knows what's going to happen as far as budgets go, but Commissioners and other state officials will continue to do their job regardless. Mr. Warburton also showed the Commission that the Hampton Beach Visitors Guide is ready and that the beach has received the honor of being named a five star beach.

b. Status of Earth, Sea and Space Museum – Fred Rice

Mr. Rice said that there are a couple items coming up in the near future regarding the Earth, Sea and Space Museum. Crystal Kent continues to hold fundraisers and in the works currently there is a DVD being created similar to the seashell project, which describes the proposal and has interviews with local residents. The goal is to have this completed sometime in March.

c. Other old business

Mr. McMahan noted that there have been numerous discussions about different projects and different funding sources and he thinks it would be beneficial to prioritize and summarize these projects and sources to something more manageable to understand and track by the Commission. It was agreed that a working session be held to discuss Mr. McMahan's recommendations in more detail.

Mr. Warburton said that he has recently received calls regarding the bridge and he noted that it will continue to be one-way through mid-June. There was also discussion about dogs on the beaches and the problems that this continues to drive and also implementing more low impact development techniques such as rain gardens whenever possible.

New Business

1. Financial Report (Nyhan)

Chairman Nyhan said that he received the one page Excel file from DRED and will provide all Commissioners with a copy, but there are no bills currently.

Mr. Warburton noted Ted Austen may be coming in April but will keep the Commission posted.

Mr. Rice commented that though the public sessions are good it may be more beneficial for people to speak with their designated representative instead of the Chairman.

Adjourn

MOVED by Mr. Warburton

SECOND by Mr. Rice

VOTE: 8-0-0 MOTION PASSED

Meeting adjourned at 8:32 pm